

GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, March 8, 2006 – 6:00 pm
Council Chambers – 300 W. Washington Street

PRESENT: Robert Douglas, III, Marc Bush, Lori Galbreath, David Hoggard, Rose Marie Ponton, Judi Rossabi, Randy Scott, Palmer Smith McIntyre, Cheryl Wilson

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Bush, Adrienne Byrd, Kathy Chatfield, Ed Deaton, John Hughes, Bonnie Kuester, Dan Maxson, Brooks Mullane, Tracy Pegram, Marcie Richardson, Mike Simpson, Lou Spera, Laurie Thore, Don Tilley, Heather Ulrich, Richard Wagner, Bernadette White, Chris Wilson

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission was held in the City Council Chambers. Robert Douglas, III, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 8, 2006 Commission Meeting were approved as submitted.

Recognition

Bonnie Kuester, Director, recognized the Parks and Recreation Employee of the Month for March, Kathy Chatfield.

OLD BUSINESS

2006 Reenactment of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse (not on agenda)

Adrienne Byrd, Director, Tannenbaum Park, invited the Commission to the 225th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. This event has been relocated from its previous location at Country Park to Price Park, off of New Garden Road, and will be held March 18-19, 2006 from 8:30am to 5:00pm with the battle reenactment at 2:00pm daily.

Rose Marie Ponton, Commissioner, stated that the Guilford Battleground Company is offering the public the option to purchase Commemorative Revolutionary license plates. The plates can be ordered through the Guilford Battleground Company.

Greenway Master Plan

Matt Hayes, Consultant, Greenways, Inc., updated the Commission on the Greensboro Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Greenways Plan. Hayes stated that Greenways, Inc. was brought in through a grant from Moses Cone Wesley Long Community Health Foundation. The goals of this plan are to provide a greenway system for healthy living and to focus and serve underserved areas by providing a comprehensive, integrated system of off-road and on-road greenway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. Goals also include connecting destinations such as parks, schools, places of work, etc.

Hayes stated that tasks completed to date are public surveys of trail use, conducted by UNCG, and data collection. Currently, public workshops/presentations are being held, analysis of bicycle, pedestrian and greenways needs, and the production of a draft plan. Once these items are complete a draft plan will be presented to the public, then preparation of the final plan.

Greenway plan elements include improving the existing framework of the City's Greenways and trails system and successfully merge concepts of improved access to outdoors to create opportunity for self-directed health management activities. The following are seven greenway corridor types:

- Type 1: No facility development; water quality protection, landscapes for wildlife and native plants, wetland areas, threatened landscapes, steep sloped areas, limited access and use, no programming
- Type 2: Limited facility development; sensitive lands that require care in permitting access and use, supports low impact boardwalk or footpath trails, can be programmed for activities that include natural systems education
- Type 3: Multi-use unpaved trails; landscapes that can support unpaved trails and provide quality access to native landscapes, supports hiking, biking, equestrian and other outdoor uses, landscaped for programming
- Type 4: Multi-use paved trails; encourages the widest range of use, supports hiking, walking, cycling, rollerblading, etc., best for programming
- Type 5: On-road bicycle and sidewalk facilities; located along roadways that are identified in the City Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, consists of bike lanes, bike routes and sidewalks adjacent to roadways
- Type 6: Paddle trails or water trails; located on rivers and lakes that can support non-motorized watercraft, portage facilities, signage and other support facilities
- Type 7: Green streets; located in urban areas of Greensboro, consists of landscape roadways with sidewalks, link institutional, historic, and cultural landscapes to urban core

Bicycle plan elements include bike lanes, paved shoulders, wide curb lanes, shared use paths (greenways), wide sidewalks and signed bike routes.

Pedestrian plan elements will include examining sidewalk network, looking at crash data for pedestrians, conduct field investigations to examine trouble spots and use results of UNCG survey to define deficiencies in Southeast Greensboro.

The next series of public workshops will be held on April 1st, 4th, 5th and 6th, 2006. In May 2006, a draft plan will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Completion of the final plan will be complete June 2006.

Ponton stated that in previous years a bicycle plan was produced with interest that sidewalks would be used by bicycles. Ponton asked if there is any way bikers can be encouraged to use the sidewalks in narrow areas verses the roadway. Ponton also asked if there are any provisions being made regarding the area at Friendly Center.

Hayes replied stating that this plan will incorporate off-road and on-road trails. Sidewalks definitely need to be wider to accommodate all user pedestrians and bicyclists. There are cases where the plan recommends wider sidewalks that are further away from the roadway to provide a safer area. Hayes continued saying that many concerns have been brought forth regarding the Friendly Center area, along with other shopping centers, and these areas are being addressed as part of plan.

Palmer Smith McIntyre, Commissioner, stated that she is pleased to see how well this plan is integrating with the different uses and how educating the public will be a large part of it. McIntyre asked if there has been involvement from the equestrian community. McIntyre also inquired as to how Greensboro's existing facilities compare to other communities.

Hayes replied stating that they are looking into equestrian options, mostly to the north. Hayes stated that comparison is similar to other cities and communities of this size.

Judi Rossabi, Commissioner, asked if there is state involvement with this plan and stated that she would like to see bicycle trails integrated with new roads, such as the roads being built near the airport.

Hayes replied stating that this is definitely a large part of the recommendations and they are trying to get trails incorporated into the design of new roads.

Athletic Advisory Board

John Hughes, Division Manager, asked the Commission to submit the names of those that they would like to appoint to the Athletic Advisory Board.

Memorial Stadium (not on agenda)

Richard Wagner, Project Specialist, Parks and Recreation, stated to the Commission that the War Memorial Stadium Taskforce met with the design consultant last evening. The design consultant presented a re-design cost estimate for each of the three schemes that were presented at the February Commission meeting. Wagner introduced Steve Ulp, project architect, to present the cost estimates.

Steve Ulp stated to the Commission that all three schemes show the removal of the seats on the right field side, next to the seats under the canopy. New home team and umpire locker rooms and a two station batting cage will be built in this area. The existing perimeter wall will be salvaged. All three schemes will allow the stadium to keep its national registry status.

The first scheme will seat one thousand five hundred (1,500), keeping the seats located under the existing canopy, and will approximately cost four million forty thousand dollars (\$4,040,000). Seats located at the left field side will be mothballed and no longer used. The area located under these seats will be renovated to have new locker rooms for the visiting team, new public restrooms and new concessions. No parking renovations are included in this scheme.

The cost estimate for the second scheme is four million nine hundred fifty-five thousand dollars (\$4,955,000). This includes two thousand (2,000) seats, which are the seats located under the existing canopy and a portion of the seats on the left field side, which would be replaced with new seats. The remainder of the left field seats would be removed and replaced with a grass plaza.

The third scheme cost estimate is five million five hundred thirty-five thousand dollars (\$5,535,000). This includes two thousand five hundred (2,500) seats, which are the seats located under the existing canopy and a portion of the seats on the left field side, more of a portion than the second scheme. The area located under the remainder of the left field seats will be renovated to have infield buildings, catering kitchen, more public restrooms and a small gallery/museum space. The seats would be removed and become a hard surface plaza providing a place for picnic tables.

The cost estimate to renovate the area around the stadium is two million three hundred thirty-five thousand dollars (\$2,335,000). This renovation would include paved parking, a memorial plaza located at the front of the stadium, a service drive into the city building, removal of parking in front of the stadium and expanding the front plaza with green landscaping, paving the existing

gravel parking lot, re-doing the stream bank, relocating the service buildings, create playing fields behind the stadium for crochet and bocce ball, create paths around the stadium, tree lining Lindsey Street, narrowing Yanceyville Street and creating entry gates at either end of the stadium.

David Hoggard, Commissioner, added that along with this project, the Summit Avenue Corridor study is taking place. This study is looking at this area and the closing of Yanceyville Street is a big portion of this study.

NEW BUSINESS

Bur-Mil Park Grant

Chris Wilson, Division Manager, informed the Commission of the recent un-solicited grant designation from Recreation Equipment, Inc. (REI). This company has designated one hundred community parks across the country that they will be donating monies to. Bur-Mil Park has been selected as one of these parks and will receive a grant in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). Bur-Mil Park is the only local municipal park in the state of North Carolina to receive this grant. The recommendation came from REI staff that was brought into Greensboro. This grant will go towards more environmental education and perhaps more displays and items to compliment the Wildlife Education Center located at Bur-Mil Park.

Summer CampFest Presentation

Laurie Thore, Marketing Director, announced the Summer CampFest event that will be held at the Greensboro Sportsplex on Sunday, March 19, 2006 from 1:00 pm -5:00 pm. This event is free of charge and will allow parents and guardians to register and/or gather information on Parks and Recreation 2006 Summer Camp.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

-NONE-

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Kuester encouraged citizens to attend the March 21, 2006 City Council meeting to speak on their interests and concerns regarding the 2006 bond referendum.

Kuester informed the Commission that the Accreditation Visitation Team will be visiting and assessing the Parks and Recreation Department during May 9-12, 2006. Commissioners will have the opportunity to meet the visitation team.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Judi Rossabi inquired, on behalf of a citizen, if there are plans for a football league at Lindley Recreation Center.

John Hughes replied stating that a football league is not provided at Lindley Recreation Center due to the lack of youth football interest in the community.

Kuester added that youth in this area do have the opportunity to play football for another recreation center.

Lori Galbreath thanked Commissioner Marc Bush for the ACC Tournament Town t-shirt. Galbreath was able to attend the Women's ACC Tournament and looks forward to attending the Men's ACC Tournament.

David Hoggard stated that discussions took place at the previous War Memorial Stadium Taskforce meeting regarding the stadium bond and whether this bond will stand alone or be included as a part of Parks and Recreation bond.

Kuester stated that there is no guarantee that items regarding Parks and Recreation will be placed on the bond referendum. Kuester encouraged Hoggard to attend the March 21, 2006 City Council meeting and speak to Council.

Rose Marie Ponton stated that she attended the Peeler Recreation Center Open House and it was very well attended by the community and they were very proud of all the work that has been done to the center.

Marc Bush stated that on March 23, 2006 a full day of events are being planned to honor the Olympic Gold Medal winner, Joey Cheek.

Robert Douglas stated that he is very impressed with the tremendous improvements to Peeler Recreation Center.

With no further business, Douglas adjourned the meeting at 7:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Richardson, Executive Assistant
Greensboro Parks and Recreation